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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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LITTLE IMPROVEMENT EXPECTED IN CIVILIAN SUPPLIES OF MEAT, BUTTER, SUGAR

Although civilian supplies of food stuffs in 1945 are expected to be about the same as in 1944, the proportion of certain foods will increase or decrease.

Sugar consumption during the past year has been practically up to the limit allowed by the rationing controls and civilians cannot expect more sugar early in 1945. However, as the canning of the large 1944 fruit crop, together with the Christmas candy trade made sugar for ordinary purposes scarce in the fall of 1944, easing of this seasonal shortage is expected.

But sugar will not be plentiful. Our domestic production goals on both cane and beet sugar have been increased but labor shortage will prevent this supply from increasing much in 1945. Refiners are also short of labor.

Civilians will probably have no more butter in 1945 than the 12 pounds per capita of 1944, and possibly a little less if production continues to drop. Civilians are drinking more fluid milk, and wartime requirements take more milk than the relatively small increase in total production. Since butter is a less efficient use of milk than are fluid milk, cheese, canned milk, and other

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CIGARETTE PRODUCTION INCREASED 20 BILLION OVER 1943 OUTPUT

Total production of cigarettes in 1944 was approximately 329 billion cigarettes, an increase of 20 billion over 1943.

Of this supply at least 110 billion or approximately one-third of the total 1944 output went to the armed forces abroad.

Supply available for civilian and military personnel in this country is about 220 billion in 1944 compared with 258 billion in 1943.

Aside from the huge military requirements, other factors responsible for the current lack of sufficient supplies of cigarettes include shortages of factory labor and shipping containers and buying in advance of needs by consumers.

Deliveries of cigarettes under lend-lease are hardly in the picture. Through October 1944, for instance, such deliveries--virtually all to the British armed services--totalled 2.9 billion cigarettes or only a little more than 1 percent of the total withdrawals.

Contrary to the general belief, practically the entire volume of lend-lease cigarettes is manufactured in this country from British-owned U.S. tobacco, and every package carries a British brand name.

1945 PEANUT BUTTER QUALITY TO BE IMPROVED

Peanut butter manufacturers will be marketing a smoother, richer-flavored peanut butter after the first of the year.

Since slightly more peanuts will be produced this year than in 1943, only top grade peanuts will be going into peanut butter. In past seasons, No. 2 grade peanuts were also used. The lower grade peanuts will now be used for peanut oil.

Peanut butter this year will also be improved because manufacturers are able to get priority on certain types of homogenizing machinery. With this equipment the peanut butter can be prepared so that oil separation will be retarded.

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CIVILIAN SUPPLIES (Cont. from Page 1)

milk products, and since the wartime needs of the armed services are for cheese, canned milk, and dried milk which can be more easily shipped, butter supplies will continue small. Butter production is seasonally low now and will not increase until the spring months of 1945, so consumer supplies cannot be expected to improve much before that time.

Total supplies of meat will be slightly down in 1945 due mainly to a considerable decrease in pork. The amount of beef should be equal or a little higher than the 1944 supply, and probably a little better in quality. Veal will not be any more plentiful than during 1944. There will be little change in lamb and mutton stocks. Per capita supply of all meats will be 5 or 10 pounds below the 1944 figure of 135 to 145 pounds, but meat supplies will still be above the pre-war consumption of 126 pounds.

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Marketing Reports Division,
Office of Marketing Services, WFA
150 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y.

PLENTIFUL FOODS

Fresh fruits and vegetables expected to be plentiful throughout the Northeast Region during the month of January are: onions, beets, apples (especially lower grades), winter squash, small size white potatoes, turnips and rutabagas.

Other foods that will be easily obtained are: eggs, frozen vegetables and frozen baked beans; dry mix and dehydrated soups; soya flour, grits, and flakes; peanut butter, citrus marmalade, jams (except berry varieties), jellies, and apple butter, wheat flour and bread; macaroni, spaghetti, noodles; oatmeal.

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FRUITS, VEGETABLES LEAD IN NOVEMBER WFA SALES

Sales of Government-owned food by the War Food Administration during November totalled \$1,111,668, bringing total sales since May 1 to \$24,058,319.

Leading the sales in November were fruits and vegetable products which were 65 percent of the total. Largest of these items were canned peas, raisins, canned tomatoes, canned corn, catsup, canned green beans, prunes, concentrated lemon juice, and dehydrated potatoes.

Dairy and poultry products were second in November, amounting to 33 percent of the monthly total.

Small lots of miscellaneous commodities have been and are being sold from time to time because they are no longer necessary to war requirements or because they are off grade due to such factors as storms, hurricane, moisture.

Members of the trade who are interested in receiving announcements of surplus food sales may have their names placed on a mailing list by writing B.G. Southwick, Chief Procurement and Price Support Division, War Food Administration, 150 Broadway, New York City.

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